

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 4-5, 7, 11, 14-15, 17, and 21-30 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method, executed by a broadcasting server, for controlling interlock of an interactive service with data broadcasting, said method comprising:
acquiring information specifying an interactive service associated with data broadcasting and information specifying a service time of said interactive service, wherein said interactive service can be provided from an interactive server over a first communication path to a broadcasting receiver, and said data broadcasting can be provided from said broadcasting server over a second communication path to said broadcasting receiver;
transmitting over a third communication path, said information specifying said interactive service and said information specifying said service time, which are acquired in said acquiring, to an said interactive server, which is independent from said broadcasting server, and which executes an interactive application that provides said interactive service over said first communication path to a said broadcasting receiver in response to an access from said broadcasting receiver; and
transmitting over said second communication path, to said broadcasting receiver, data broadcasting contents associated with said interactive service at said service time specified by said information specifying said service time, wherein said data broadcasting contents include link information to access said interactive application executed by said interactive server.
2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said acquiring includes extracting said information specifying said interactive service and said information specifying said service time from interactive service organization information.
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said acquiring further includes extracting second information specifying said interactive service from

content information of said data broadcasting and comparing the second extracted information with said information specifying said interactive service extracted from said interactive service organization information.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein in said transmitting over said third communication path ~~said information specifying said interactive service and said information specifying said service time~~, said information specifying said interactive service and said information specifying said service time, together with content information of said data broadcasting, are distributed to said interactive server.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising generating information as to whether each interactive service must be activated at present based on said information specifying said service time of each said interactive service, and

wherein in said transmitting over said third communication path ~~said information specifying said interactive service and said information specifying said service time~~, said information as to whether each said interactive service must be activated at present is further transmitted.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising, if information indicating an operating state of said interactive service is received from said interactive server, deleting or invalidating designation of an inactive interactive service in content information of said data broadcasting.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method, executed by an interactive server that provides an interactive service associated with data broadcasting to a broadcasting receiver, for controlling interlock of said an interactive service with said data broadcasting in an interactive server that provides said interactive service associated with said data broadcasting to a broadcasting receiver, said method comprising:

receiving and storing a set of information specifying an interactive service and information specifying a service time of said interactive service from a broadcasting server in one or a plurality of broadcasting stations, wherein said broadcasting server is managed independently from said interactive server;

extracting, from the stored set of said information, a set of information specifying a

specific interactive service having a relation to said interactive server and information specifying a service time of that said specific interactive service by using the received information specifying said interactive service; and

controlling activation and deactivation of each said interactive service based on said extracted set of said information specifying said interactive service and said information specifying said service time of that interactive service, and

wherein said interactive service can be provided from said interactive server over a first communication path to said broadcasting receiver, said data broadcasting can be provided from said broadcasting server over a second communication path to said broadcasting receiver, and said set of information specifying said interactive service and information specifying said service time of said interactive service is transmitted from said broadcasting server over a third communication path to said interactive server.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 7, wherein in said controlling said activation and deactivation, if it is judged that a service start time has arrived based on said information specifying said service time, a flag of the corresponding interactive service is set ON,

if it is judged that a service termination time has arrived based on said information specifying said service time, a flag of the corresponding interactive service is set OFF, and

an interactive service is activated or deactivated based on said flag of said interactive service.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:

acquiring information indicating an operating state of said interactive service; and

transmitting said information indicating said operating state of said interactive service to a broadcasting server associated with said data broadcasting.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein said acquiring includes specifying that the interactive service is active in a case where a response indicating that the interactive service is active is received from the interactive service.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A program embodied on a computer readable medium, for causing a broadcasting server ~~computer~~ to control ~~a method, executed by a~~

~~broadcasting server, for controlling interlock of an interactive service with data broadcasting,~~
said program comprising steps for:

acquiring information specifying an interactive service associated with data broadcasting
and information specifying a service time of said interactive service, wherein said interactive
service can be provided from an interactive server over a first communication path to a
broadcasting receiver, and said data broadcasting can be provided from said broadcasting
server over a second communication path to said broadcasting receiver[[:]];

transmitting over a third communication path, said information specifying said interactive
service and said information specifying said service time, which are acquired in said acquiring, to
an said interactive server, which is independent from said broadcasting server, and which
executes an interactive application that provides said interactive service over said first
communication path to a said broadcasting server in response to an access from said
broadcasting server-receiver; and

transmitting over said second communication path, to said broadcasting server-receiver,
data broadcasting contents associated with said interactive service at said service time specified
by said information specifying said service time, wherein said data broadcasting contents include
link information to access said interactive application executed by said interactive server.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The program as set forth in claim 11, wherein
said acquiring includes extracting said information specifying said interactive service and said
information specifying said service time from interactive service organization information.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The program as set forth in claim 12, wherein
said acquiring further includes extracting second information specifying said interactive service
from content information of said data broadcasting and comparing the second extracted
information with said information specifying said interactive service extracted from said
interactive service organization information.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 11, wherein in
said transmitting over said third communication path ~~said information specifying said interactive
service and said information specifying said service time,~~ said information specifying said
interactive service and said information specifying said service time, together with content
information of said data broadcasting, are distributed to said interactive server.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 11, further comprising generating information as to whether each interactive service must be activated at present based on said information specifying said service time of each said interactive service, and

wherein in said transmitting over said third communication path ~~said information specifying said interactive service and said information specifying said service time~~, said information as to whether each said interactive service must be activated at present is further transmitted.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The program as set forth in claim 11, further comprising, if information indicating an operating state of said interactive service is received from said interactive server, deleting or invalidating designation of an inactive interactive service in content information of said data broadcasting.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A program embodied on a computer readable medium, for causing an interactive server that provides an interactive service associated with data broadcasting to a broadcasting receiver, to control interlock of the interactive service with said data broadcasting, said program comprising steps for:

receiving and storing a set of information specifying an interactive service and information specifying a service time of said interactive service from a broadcasting server in one or a plurality of broadcasting stations, wherein said broadcasting server is managed independently from said interactive server;

extracting, from the stored set of said information, a set of information specifying a specific interactive service having a relation to said interactive server and information specifying a service time of that said specific interactive service by using the received information specifying said interactive service; and

controlling activation and deactivation each said interactive service based on said extracted set of said information specifying said interactive service and said information specifying said service time of that interactive service, and

wherein said interactive service can be provided from said interactive server over a first communication path to said broadcasting receiver, said data broadcasting can be provided from said broadcasting server over a second communication path to said broadcasting receiver, and said set of information specifying said interactive service and information specifying said service time of said interactive service is transmitted from said broadcasting

server over a third communication path to said interactive server.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The program as set forth in claim 17, wherein in said controlling said activation and deactivation, if it is judged that a service start time has arrived based on said information specifying said service time, a flag of the corresponding interactive service is set ON,

if it is judged that a service termination time has arrived based on said information specifying said service time, a flag of the corresponding interactive service is set OFF, and an interactive service is activated or deactivated based on said flag of said interactive service.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The program as set forth in claim 17, further comprising:

acquiring information indicating an operating state of said interactive service; and transmitting said information indicating said operating state of said interactive service to a broadcasting server associated with said data broadcasting.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The program as set forth in claim 19, wherein said acquiring includes specifying that the interactive service is active in a case where a response indicating that the interactive service is active is received from the interactive service.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A broadcasting server ~~An apparatus for controlling a method, executed by a broadcasting server,~~ for controlling interlock of an interactive service with data broadcasting, said broadcasting server comprising:

an acquiring unit that acquires ~~means for acquiring~~ information specifying an interactive service associated with data broadcasting and information specifying a service time of said interactive service, wherein said interactive service can be provided from an interactive server over a first communication path to a broadcasting receiver, and said data broadcasting can be provided from said broadcasting server over a second communication path to said broadcasting receiver;

a first transmitter to transmit ~~that transmits over a third communication path,~~ said information specifying said interactive service and said information specifying said service time, which are acquired by said acquiring unit ~~means for acquiring,~~ to an said interactive server,

which is independent from said broadcasting server, and which executes an interactive application that provides said interactive service over said first communication path to a said broadcasting receiver in response to an access from said broadcasting receiver; and
transmitting a second transmitter that transmits over said second communication path,
to said broadcasting receiver, data broadcasting contents associated with said interactive service at said service time specified by said information specifying said service time, wherein said data broadcasting contents include link information to access said interactive application executed by said interactive server.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The broadcasting server apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein said ~~means for acquiring unit~~ includes a first extractor that extracts means for extracting said information specifying said interactive service and said information specifying said service time from interactive service organization information.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The broadcasting server apparatus as set forth in claim 22, wherein said ~~means for acquiring unit~~ further includes a second extractor that extracts means for extracting second information specifying said interactive service from content information of said data broadcasting, and a unit that compares ~~for comparing~~ the second extracted information with said information specifying said interactive service extracted from said interactive service organization information.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The broadcasting server apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein in said first transmitter transmitting said information specifying said interactive service and said information specifying said service time, distributes said information specifying said interactive service and said information specifying said service time, together with content information of said data broadcasting to said interactive server.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The broadcasting server apparatus as set forth in claim 21, further comprising a generator that generates ~~generating~~ information as to whether each interactive service must be activated at present based on said information specifying said service time of each said interactive service, and

wherein said first transmitter transmitting said information specifying said interactive service and said information specifying said service time, further transmits said information as to whether each said interactive service must be activated at present.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The broadcasting server apparatus as set forth in claim 21, further comprising~~[[.]]~~ a unit that deletes or invalidates ~~means for deleting or~~ invalidating designation of an inactive interactive service in content information of said data broadcasting, if information indicating an operating state of said interactive service is received from said interactive server~~[[.]]~~.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An interactive server that provides an interactive service associated with data broadcasting to a broadcasting receiver, said interactive server comprising:

a receiver including a storage that receives and stores ~~to receive and store~~ a set of information specifying an interactive service and information specifying a service time of said interactive service from a broadcasting server in one or a plurality of broadcasting stations, wherein said broadcasting server is managed independently from said interactive server;

an extractor that extracts ~~means for extracting~~ a set of information, from the stored set of said information, specifying a specific interactive service having a relation to said interactive server and information specifying a service time of that said specific interactive service; and

a controller that controls ~~means for controlling~~ activation and deactivation of each said interactive service based on said extracted set of said information specifying said interactive service and said information specifying said service time of that interactive service, and

wherein said interactive service can be provided from said interactive server over a first communication path to said broadcasting receiver, said data broadcasting can be provided from said broadcasting server over a second communication path to said broadcasting receiver, and said set of information specifying said interactive service and information specifying said service time of said interactive service is transmitted from said broadcasting server over a third communication path to said interactive server.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The interactive server as set forth in claim 27, wherein if it is judged that a service start time has arrived based on said information ~~for~~ specifying said service time, said controller ~~means for controlling said activation and deactivation~~ sets a flag of the corresponding interactive service ON,

if it is judged that a service termination time has arrived based on said information specifying said service time, said controller ~~means for controlling said activation and deactivation~~ sets a flag of the corresponding interactive service OFF, and

said controller ~~means for controlling said activation and deactivation~~ activates or deactivates the interactive service on the basis of said flag of said interactive service.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The interactive server as set forth in claim 27, further comprising:

~~means for an~~ acquiring unit that acquires information indicating an operating state of said interactive service; and

a transmitter that transmits ~~means for transmitting~~ said information indicating said operating state of said interactive service to a broadcasting server associated with said data broadcasting.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The interactive server as set forth in claim 29, wherein said ~~means for~~ acquiring unit comprises a unit that specifies ~~means for specifying~~ that the interactive service is active in a case where a response indicating that the interactive service is active is received from the interactive service.